

Mobutu renews search for Angola peace

BOUCERNE, France (R) — Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko Sunday began his most ardent bid to revive a peace accord to end Angola's 14-year civil war. Mobutu was holding secret talks in southern France with Angola's UNITA rebel leader Jonas Savimbi and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Herman Cohen. Cohen played a key role in talks in Washington earlier this month when President George Bush persuaded Savimbi to return to the conference table. A Zairean spokesman described the talks in France as "very delicate." He was referring to the crucial issue of what peace formula Savimbi would accept as a condition for agreeing to a ceasefire in the war between the Lissane government and UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola). Savimbi states he agreed to go into exile and merge his guerrilla force into the Angolan army he announced after the June summit in Gbadolite, Zaire. A wave of publicity followed the Gbadolite meeting at which Savimbi met and shook hands for the first time with Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos. UNITA, which is backed by Pretoria and Washington, stepped up fighting after the ceasefire announcement and diplomatic contacts have continued for a resumption of Mobutu's mediation.

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Israeli soldiers examining identity papers in Beit Sahour in the occupied West Bank

Israelis press ahead with Beit Sahour raids

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops and tax collectors have seized goods worth a million dollars from Palestinians refusing to pay taxes in the besieged West Bank town of Beit Sahour, an informed Israeli source said Sunday.

British Consul-General Ivan Callan, who managed to enter Beit Sahour on a back road last week, said the 12,000 residents remained cheerful and determined despite the crackdown.

Diplomats said several countries lodged sharply worded protests with Israel after the army blocked seven West European consuls from visiting the town Oct. 6 (see page 2).

Sources said the army had dropped its original plan to auction the goods seized at Beit Sahour and would instead dispose of them in lots by tender.

Also Sunday, masked uprising activists killed a Palestinian gardener, who was accused of collaborating with Israel, by shooting him twice in the head at point-blank range in the Gaza Strip town of Rafah, reporters said.

The victim was identified as Abed Rabu Abu Amra, 24, who was shot as he pruned trees at a U.N.-owned school. Reporters said Abu Amra had been warned last month not to cooperate with Israeli officials.

Uprising leaders, Shamir assail American proposals

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Underground leaders of the Palestinian uprising and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir dealt a double blow Sunday to U.S. efforts, to bring about Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Cairo.

The uprising leadership urged Palestinians to "reject the suspicious American role, foremost of which is the five-point proposal of (Secretary of State) James Baker."

In their 47th leaflet, distributed in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, they stressed that only the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) could appoint Palestinian delegates to peace talks.

Shamir meanwhile told the Israeli newspaper Maariv there was no need for talks in Cairo at all, since Israel would only talk to Palestinians from the occupied territories and would not let the PLO play any role.

"Who says it was to be in Cairo? Why go all the way to Cairo when both sides, Israelis and Palestinians, are here?" the hardline Israeli leader asked.

It was his most outspoken rejection to date of any Egyptian mediation role.

The director-general of Shamir's office, Yossi Ben-Aharon, told Israel radio the message was that Israel would not agree to the participation of Palestinians from outside the territories or to any process leading towards a Palestinian state.

The Unified Leadership of the Uprising, a coalition of national-

Troops have cut telephone links and sealed off the approach roads to the town, near Bethlehem, with mounds of earth and rock barriers.

The death in Gaza took the number of Palestinians killed in the 22-month-old uprising to 683.

Meanwhile, an underground leader called for general strikes on Oct. 21 and 29 "to reject all conspiracies and assert adherence to the Palestinian peace programme," and a strike on Nov. 9 to mark the start of the uprising's 24th month.

It said Israel's May 14 proposal for elections to choose delegates to negotiate an interim period of limited self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip was an attempt to liquidate the Palestinian people.

On Saturday, Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian and wounded at least 15 others during protest marches and clashes in the occupied territories.

Palestinian sources said Ramdan Mohammad Kawasni, 18, was painting nationalist Palestinian slogans in the West Bank town of Hebron when Israeli troops came upon him and shot him dead.

In the Gaza Strip, troops shot and wounded at least 15 Palestinians, including a seven-year-old girl shot in the head with live ammunition.

Opposes any contact with the PLO. But leaders of the Labour Party, Likud's partners in the coalition cabinet, increasingly have spoken of the need to talk at least to PLO supporters.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a key Labor figure, said in an interview Friday that Israel had no other choice.

"If we say that we are not prepared to negotiate with Palestinians who have views similar to the PLO outlook, or who are members of the PLO, then we have no Palestinians for negotiations," Rabin told the left-wing Al Hanashir newspaper.

Contacts are still ongoing between the United States, Egypt and Israel on the Baker proposal for a meeting of the three countries' foreign ministers, Israel's ambassador to Cairo said Sunday.

Likud sources said they were counting on the Palestine Central Council, meeting in Baghdad, to reject the Baker formula and take the pressure off Israel to respond.

Shamir has objected to three of Baker's points, saying they allow Egypt to consult the PLO, do not give Israel a clear veto on Palestinian delegations and would allow Palestinians to raise demands unrelated to elections in the preliminary talks.

Critics accuse Shamir of wanting to ensure his own initiative never has to be implemented by setting terms which the Palestinians are bound to reject.

Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc

'Constitution vs. Election Law' goes to court Bedouin nominees told to contest seats in own regions

By Nermene Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Three contestants who filed their nomination papers in Amman and Irbid to the Nov. 8 elections have been informed by the government that their candidacy applications were not acceptable in the two cities. The three were advised to re-submit their applications in the districts assigned for them.

The candidates, when contacted by the Jordan Times, cited a "discrepancy" between the Jordanian Constitution and the Election Law as the factor behind the decision.

The governor of Amman informed Mashhour Hadithieh and Sheikh Naif Khreisha that their applications for candidacy in the Second District of the capital have been rejected and advised the two to re-submit their papers to their original constituency, the central bedouin region.

Hadithieh, when contacted by telephone in his home in Muwaqqar, argued: "According to the articles of the Constitution, they cannot ban me from running in the districts of Amman."

A lawyer, who asked to remain anonymous, said that the rejection of the candidacies was "wrong and contradicts the Constitution."

It further noted that Tamimi was an employee at the embassy of the State of Palestine in Amman and the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 28 of the 1986 Election Law and its amendments apply to him.

Hadithieh said he had faith in the Jordanian legal system and its "honour and purity," but expressed hope that the first instance court, where the candidates will contest the government's decision, will base its decision on "the original law (Constitution) and not the wrong interpretations of it."

If the first instance court rules against the candidates, the decision will be deemed final and cannot be contested.

Asked whether they will run in their respective district if the government's decision was upheld by the court, Hadithieh and Khreisha both said: "There will be no chance of that now."

Oadi was not available for comment, but his family confirmed that he had received a letter from the governor in Irbid and has already contested the decision in court.

Palestinian leaders debate strategy on talks proposals

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Palestinian leaders met Sunday in the Iraqi capital seeking a common strategy towards U.S. and Egyptian proposals for direct Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations.

The Palestine Central Council convened at the Palestine embassy in downtown Baghdad under tight security.

The council, comprising 108 members, acts as an intermediary between the Palestine National Council (PNC), and the 15-man executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). It meets for policy-making decisions in between the usually annual sessions of the 450-member PNC.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat told the council any elections in the occupied territories would have to be impartial.

A Palestinian spokesman said Arafat spoke at the opening session of "the necessity of guaranteeing the impartiality of the elections."

The election process should be part of a comprehensive plan to find a just settlement for the Palestinian problem, taking into account any PLO participation, or left its role vague.

Egypt has offered to host Israeli-Palestinian talks. But

Palestinian people for self-determination... and the establishment of its independent state," he quoted Arafat as saying.

The council is also expected to see lively debate over the next two days on the faltering PLO dialogue with Washington.

The dialogue opened in December last year after Arafat recognised Israel's right to exist and renounced terrorism.

But PLO leaders have voiced dissatisfaction with its progress, saying the United States was using the talks solely to press for acceptance of Israel's proposals for elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip leading to outright condemnation of the self-rule.

PLO spokesman Ahmad Abdul Rahman said the council would discuss "all peace ideas that have been floating in recent months and will issue a policy statement."

Arafat was expected to come under pressure from hardliners to outrightly reject the proposals by Israel, Egypt and the United States which have either ruled out any PLO participation, or left its role vague.

"It depends on the specifications of the role," he said. "If it is positive and helps push our Palestinian cause forward, then it is acceptable."

"Otherwise, we will have a totally different situation."

Asylum-seeking Germans on the rise in Warsaw

WARSAW (Agencies) — More East German refugees came to the West German embassy Sunday in hopes of being allowed to go West, while nearly 1,000 others waited anxiously for their promised departure.

Poland and East Germany agreed Saturday to allow refugees at the embassy or other shelters to obtain travel documents from the East German embassy in Warsaw and then travel to wherever they choose. It was not clear whether the agreement would apply to East Germans arriving in Poland Sunday or afterwards.

A West German official in Bonn, speaking on condition of not being identified, said the departure would begin Monday.

"I am carrying a verbal message from Mr. Arens which clarifies Israel's position," he said. "Israel's point of view is based on Israel's 14... initiative which outlines three stages for elections."

reached in Warsaw by East German Deputy Foreign Minister Harry Ott and Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski.

Among those arriving at the West German embassy in Warsaw Sunday was a family who had persuaded East German authorities to let them travel to Poland using a holiday invitation from a Polish family.

The father said he was motivated to leave by the fierce police crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrations that swept East Germany during last week's observance of the 40th anniversary of the country's founding.

Rather than being inspired by the outbreak of opposition activity in Warsaw, the man said he was shocked by the repression.

"My protest was to leave," he said.

Other East Germans who have arrived in Warsaw in the last week have also cited police brutality as the reason behind their flight.

In Bonn, government sources said they expected travel passes to be issued gradually by East Germany's Warsaw embassy over a period of days beginning Monday to avoid a mass exodus.

The asylum-seekers, who arrive in the first instance at West Germany's embassy in Warsaw, are being housed in residences and holiday camps in and around Warsaw.

The governments of East Germany, Poland and West Germany, meanwhile, were discussing how the refugees would journey to West Germany, with air travel

Church assured that Waite is alive

LONDON (AP) — The Church of England said Sunday it has been assured by a reliable Iranian informant that missing envoy Terry Waite is alive on his 1,800th day in captivity. The unidentified source also provided assurances that two other missing Britons — journalist John McCarthy and Northern Irish teacher Brian Keenan — are alive, said Eve Keating, a spokeswoman for Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie. Waite, 59, the archbishop's personal emissary, dropped out of sight in Beirut Jan. 26, 1987 while trying to negotiate the release of two U.S. hostages. He was on his fifth mission to Lebanon. He is widely believed to have been taken captive by Iranian-backed extremists. "We have had further assurances this weekend from Iranian sources that the three British hostages are alive," Keating said. "We still have no concrete proof of this," she said. "The information comes via a channel that we think is reliable but which we do not wish to identify." Churches across Britain were reciting a prayer Sunday written by the archbishop. On Sunday, McCarthy had been missing for 1,278 days and Keenan for 1,283 days, about 3½ years. No group has claimed to hold them or Waite.

Regent meets U.S. Islamic scholar

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday met with American Islamic leader Imam Shamsuddin Ali and a delegation accompanying him (Petra photo)

Rightists table position in Taif

TAIF, Saudi Arabia (Agencies)

Right-wing Lebanese Christians gave Arab mediators written proposals Sunday for a new timetable for a Syrian troop withdrawal, deputies at peace talks in Saudi Arabia said.

But their leader, Georges Saadeh, also declared that members of parliament could not take sole responsibility for settling the issue.

Saadeh and his colleagues are under pressure from Christian army commander Michel Aoun, who heads an interim government in Lebanon's Christian enclave.

He was publicly warned that the people will not forgive any deputy who makes concessions on Lebanon's sovereignty.

Aoun declared a "war of liberation" against the Syrian military presence in Lebanon last March and remains deeply suspicious of the Taif peace talks.

Conference sources said Saadeh and five other east Beirut members of parliament gave mediators proposals for a quicker start to the two-year Syrian redeployment to eastern Lebanon and a firm deadline for a complete withdrawal from the country.

Hardline Palestinian leaders, mainly George Habash and Nafez Hawatmeh who head the two largest factions after Arafat's Fatah, have been pushing for outright condemnation of the proposals circulating.

Faisal Al Hussein, from the West Bank and head of a Jerusalem-based think-tank, told the London-based Arabic-language newspaper Al Sharq Al Awsat that Palestinian support for Egypt's policy was not unconditional.

"It depends on the specifications of the role," he said. "If it is positive and helps push our Palestinian cause forward, then it is acceptable."

"Otherwise, we will have a totally different situation."

Two special trains took some 1,500 East Germans from Warsaw to West Germany last week but the Bonn sources said East Berlin would not provide the trains again.

The sources said it was not clear if East Germany would expel the refugees or grant normal exit visas.

It was also unclear for how long exit papers would be issued to those who continued to use the West German embassy in Warsaw as an escape route.

Polish diplomatic sources, however, indicated that the issuing of emigration papers by the East German embassy was likely to become a permanent arrangement.

Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski said last Thursday he opposed deporting East Germans who had entered Poland illegally although he also wished to preserve good relations with East Berlin.

Apart from the refugees, 30,000 East Germans have moved to West Germany with legal exit visas this year. Those who leave without official permission, sometimes after waiting years for visas, are guilty of "fleeing the republic," a crime.

West German border police said the total of East Germans quitting their homeland illegally since the beginning of July reached 52,075 Sunday morning. Most fled across Hungary.

East German travel restrictions to Hungary and Czechoslovakia cut the daily flood drastically last week.

Reluctant U.S. dragged into peace process

By Alan Elsner
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Slowly, somewhat against its will, the United States is being dragged centre stage in efforts to draw Israelis and Palestinians around a negotiating table to talk about Middle East peace.

"The Middle East was not high on the (President George Bush's) administration's agenda. The last thing it wanted was to get dragged into that briar patch," said Geoffrey Kemp, a senior associate with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a private concern.

"But both Israel and Egypt are pushing for Washington to do more, though each has very different expectations, and the focus has switched back to the administration," he said.

One Middle Eastern diplomat put it more bluntly: "The administration didn't want to get its hands dirty on the Middle East, but now they are in there up to the elbows."

The event which flushed the administration out into the open was last week's rejection by Israel's inner cabinet of an Egyptian blueprint designed to pave the way for Palestinian elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Secretary of State James Baker had endorsed Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's 10-point plan which he said fleshed out and did not contradict an original four-point election proposal from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

But Shamir's right-wing Likud Party, senior partner in the fractured and fractious Israeli coalition, has demanded a veto over members of the Palestinian delegation with which it would negotiate the terms of the election.

Officials said Likud ministers wanted to exclude supporters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) or at least minimize the PLO's influence.

Faced with stalemate, Baker had intensive telephone consultations with the foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel and put together a five-point document which officials describe as a further gloss on the Shamir and Mubarak initiatives.

According to Israel Radio, the points merely reiterated that

Egypt would consult Palestinians on the composition of the Palestinian delegation but would not speak on their behalf while Israel would attend the talks only if it was satisfied with the composition of the Palestinian delegation.

The fifth point, to be implemented after the first four were agreed, would involve a meeting of the three foreign ministers in Washington.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Administration officials took pains to emphasise that the five points did not constitute a "Baker plan" to set alongside the Shamir and Mubarak plans.

"It's not a plan, it's just points," said State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler.

But the paper was immediately condemned by right-wing Israeli ministers as a U.S. ploy to put pressure on Israel. Three right-wing ministers rallied several hundred supporters in Tel Aviv to protest against the "Baker plan."

According to John Hannah, deputy director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Baker was anxious to avoid the mistake of his predecessor George Shultz by linking his personal prestige too closely to the success or failure of the efforts.

The sense is that the time is still not ripe for a full-blown American initiative because, then, everyone could sit back and take stock at it," he said.

"The administration assumes that there will be a bloc inside the Likud opposed to anything and everything but is banking on the hope that Shamir can still carry something through," he said.

Officials said Baker was still working on his five points with Israel and Egypt and that both countries had raised concerns about them.

Kemp said he expected the Washington meeting of foreign ministers to go ahead but would be surprised if anything substantive emerged from it.

"The administration has to approach Israel now with a mixture of carrots and sticks. Israel must be made aware that its support is slipping within the U.S. Congress and that concessions are now called for on its part," he said.

Kabul invites U.S. to inspect missile base

KABUL (R) — Afghanistan has invited U.S. officials to inspect a missile base near Kabul in an attempt to disprove allegations that it is secretly operated by Soviet military experts.

Government spokesman Mohammad Amani has dismissed as "baseless" reports in U.S. newspapers quoting Central Intelligence Agency sources as saying 300 Soviet military personnel were stationed at the base to oversee the firing of Soviet Scud missiles at rebel positions.

The reports said the presence of the Soviet experts would be a breach of the Geneva accords under which Moscow withdrew the last of its 110,000 troops from Afghanistan in February.

"The Afghan authorities are prepared to accept U.S. experts to visit and check whether they feel there are Russian advisers including the station where Scud missiles are fired," Amani said. "The accusations are baseless."

Western reporters might also be allowed to visit the base,

Amani said.

Foreign diplomats in the Afghan capital said it was highly unlikely the United States would take up such an invitation.

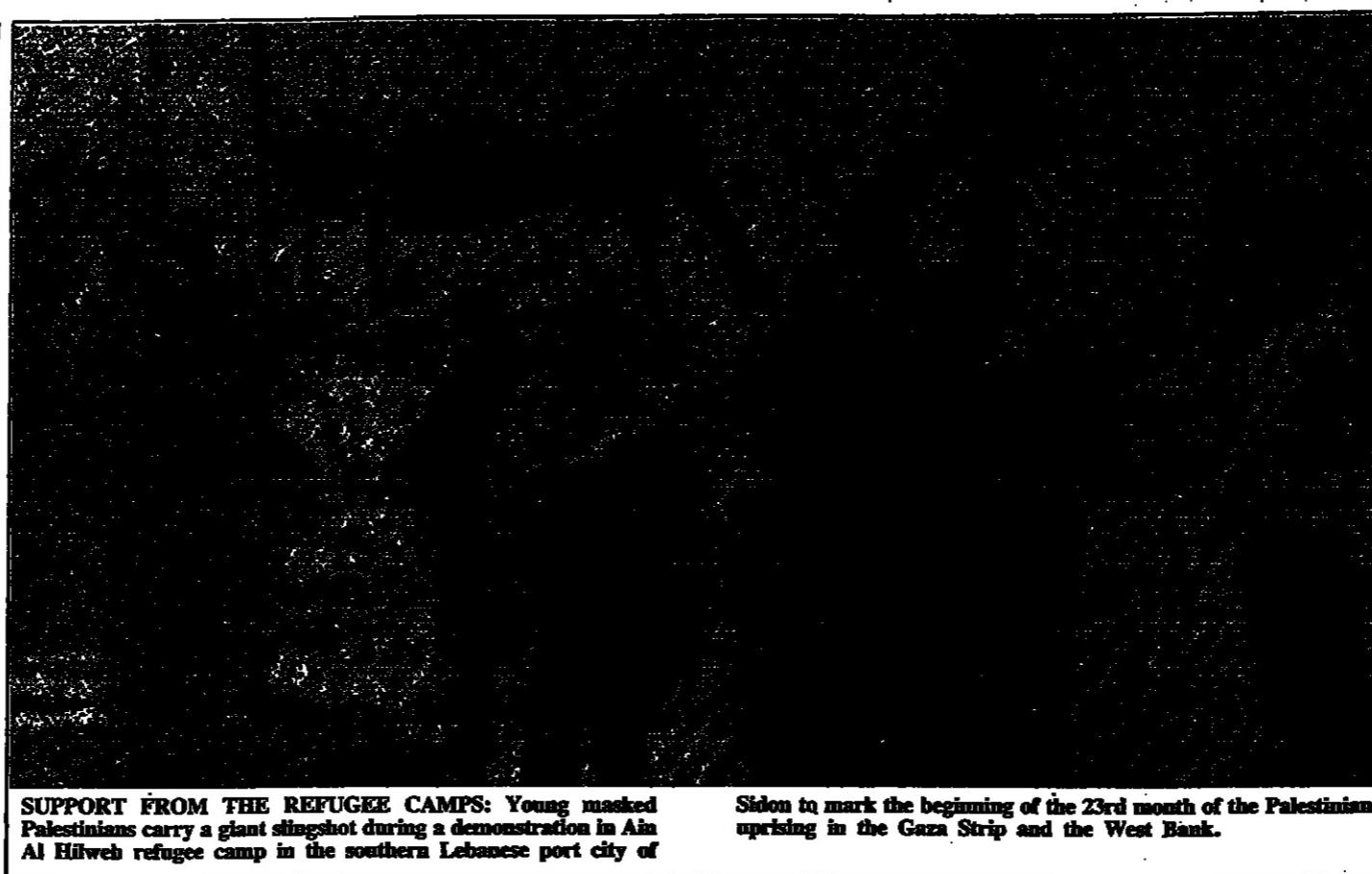
The Soviet Union has kept up heavy supplies of arms, food and vital equipment to the government of President Najibullah since its troop pullout in February. Some 20 to 30 Soviet transport planes land in Kabul daily.

The aid has helped Najibullah's government defy predictions that it would collapse soon after the Soviet withdrawal and even strengthened its hold over Afghanistan's cities and key roads.

For its part, Kabul has issued hundreds of protests since February against what it says are breaches of the Geneva accords by the United States and Pakistan, main backers of the Mujahideen rebels.

Amani said the Mujahideen were planning a major attack on Jalalabad close to the Pakistan border, in an operation he alleged was orchestrated by the United States and Pakistan.

The ministry was exploring what diplomatic measures it could take against Callan, the report said.



SUPPORT FROM THE REFUGEE CAMPS: Young masked Palestinians carry a giant slingshot during a demonstration in Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp in the southern Lebanese port city of Sidon to mark the beginning of the 23rd month of the Palestinian uprising in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Osama Al Baz — the brains that steer Cairo's diplomacy

By John Fullerton
Reuter

CAIRO — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and his ministers make the grand decisions. But it is Osama Al Baz who from the shadows offers advice and stitches Egypt's Arab-Israeli policy together.

Little is known about him. Baz, 58, prefers it that way. He likes cigars, pizzas and classical music and shuns both publicity and the visible trappings of wealth associated with high public office.

"We can't get anywhere near him," says one senior Western diplomat. "I've been here three years and maybe shaken his hand twice. That's as near as we get to him."

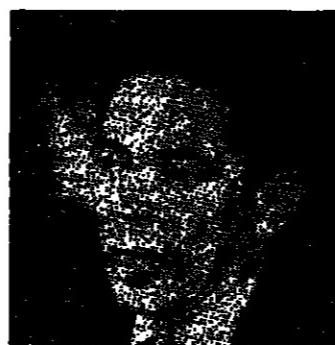
His official rank, that of first under-secretary at the Foreign Ministry, belies the enormous influence he wields as adviser to Mubarak on Middle East peace diplomacy.

Former colleagues say his ideas are central to Egypt's formulation of policy towards the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel. Behind the latest proposal to hold the first Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo lies Baz's hidden hand, guiding and cajoling.

For top PLO officials, for U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner as well as high-level envoys from other Arab capitals, the way to Mubarak lies through Baz's office, diplomats say.

"He's very prickly," says one visitor to the presidency. "He sat down opposite me while I was waiting to see the president and blew cigar smoke in my face and tried to find out all he could about me. I was quite unnerved by his questions."

A Palestinian acquaintance commented: "He is an aggressive



Osama Al Baz

negotiator and very, very bright."

The diminutive, conservatively-dressed civil servant is valued for his experience, his wide-ranging contacts throughout the Arab World, his incorruptible image and his loyalty.

"He can summarise everything you ever wanted to know about Egyptian foreign policy in five minutes, or he can lecture you for three hours without telling you a thing," says one veteran Egyptian journalist.

Colleagues of his say he shows no appetite for the status symbols of power. Apparently he owns no palatial villas, and has never to anyone's knowledge ever owned his own car.

He relaxes in his office after normal working hours by taking off his shoes, putting his feet up on his desk, loosening his collar and turning up Mozart, acquaintances say.

Outside the office he has been glimpsed munching on a pizza in an inexpensive restaurant, queuing to pay his son's school fees or being driven to work in a black government Mercedes.

Still, the U.S.-educated lawyer remains an enigma.

For the Egyptian journalists covering the Camp David negotiations between Israel and

Egypt in 1977, Baz was known as a hawk, constantly prodding the late President Anwar Sadat into demanding more from Israel.

Despite his reputation as a tough negotiator with solid Arab nationalist credentials, he constantly strove to present Sadat's policies in the best possible light, at least publicly.

"When Sadat's star was fading and everyone was jumping ship, it was Baz who accompanied Sadat on his visit to occupied Jerusalem and he was among the handful who stood by Sadat when he signed the peace treaty with Israel in 1979," recalls one veteran reporter.

It was also Baz who played an important role behind the scenes in helping Mubarak mend Arab ties that had been broken by the treaty, and it was he who reportedly helped ensure that despite the Arab boycott, contact was kept with the PLO.

Baz was out of Cairo last November when PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat declared the establishment of a Palestinian state.

"Egypt dithered for some time, but I noticed that the very day Osama was back in town Egypt announced its recognition of Palestinian statehood," says one diplomat.

"He's the great wheeler-dealer, hard to get to and extremely shrewd," he adds. "Intellectually he's very sharp and always illuminating to talk to. His modest way of life is all part of his being invisible."

Some Egyptians call Baz the Henry Kissinger of Egypt, but one joke circulating on Cairo's cocktail circuit has the former U.S. secretary of state pacing up and down his Washington office and patting himself on the back, muttering: "I'm the Osama Al Baz of the United States."

EC envoys to visit Mideast

ESCLMONT, France (R) —

Three European Community (EC) foreign ministers plan a Middle East tour in November and hope to meet Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, diplomats said Sunday.

The three ministers — from Spain, France and Ireland — also want to visit Israel for talks on peace prospects in the region but arranging dates was proving difficult, the diplomats added.

They were speaking after a two-day informal meeting of EC foreign ministers in France.

Three current Middle East peace plans, drawn up by the United States, Egypt and Israel, are certain to be at the center of next month's discussions.

The 12-nation EC favours an international conference on the Middle East conflict, rejecting Israeli government fears that such an assembly would seek to impose a settlement.

The EC three ministers represent the past, present and future incumbents of the bloc's alternating presidency.

The diplomats said the three hoped to meet Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Arafat in Tunisia Nov. 11 before heading to Cairo for talks the next day with Mubarak.

Israel declined to receive a previous EC mission which visited the region in February because of the membership of Greece. Israel deems Greece to be too overly pro-Palestinian.

But the diplomats did not indicate that Israel was opposed to meeting the latest mission. They said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens both had busy travel schedules and suitable dates had not yet been arranged.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

King Fahd appoints Justice minister

NICOSIA (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia appointed Mohammad Ibn Jubir as justice minister Saturday, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported. Jubir, a minister of state without portfolio, had been acting justice minister since Sheikh Ibrahim Al Sheik resigned in May for health reasons.

Vassiliou leaves Bahrain for Singapore

BAHRAIN (R) — Cypriot President George Vassiliou left Bahrain Sunday for Singapore after talks with the Emir, Sheikh Isa bin Sultan Al Khalifa. The Gulf News Agency said the leaders discussed regional spending and bilateral ties after Vassiliou arrived Saturday. It added that Vassiliou would go to Malaysia, where a conference of Commonwealth leaders begins Wednesday, after his Singapore visit.

Turkish forces kill 7 Kurdish rebels

SIRNAK, Turkey (R) — Turkish forces killed seven Kurdish rebels, including two women, near the south eastern town of Erzurum Saturday night, security sources said. The Marxist guerrillas were shot dead in fighting which was continuing in rugged areas north of the Iraqi border, they said. Nearly 2,000 people have been killed since mid-1984 when the Kurdish Workers Party launched a campaign for autonomy for Turkey's estimated eight million Kurds.

Ankara inaugurates landmark tower

ANKARA (R) — Ankara celebrated its 66th anniversary as Turkey's capital by opening a 127-metre (380-foot) tower looming over its skyline. It is called Atakule, the fathertower, a tribute to Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of the Turkish Republic. Built on a hilltop and designed by Turkish architect Ragip Bulut, the blue and white tower has a revolving restaurant in its mushroom shaped cap and a 200-shop arcade. Under a build-operate-transfer scheme completed in less than three years at a cost of 20 billion lire (\$9 million), the builders, Kuntulus A.S., the state-owned Vakiflar Bankasi, and two private financiers will operate the tower for 30 years.

Tehran newspaper criticises Vatican

NICOSIA (AP) — A Tehran newspaper Saturday criticised a Vatican official for claiming Islamic countries were racist, trying to impose their beliefs on religious minorities. Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said the daily Abrar was responding to a statement by Archbishop Renato Martino, the permanent Vatican observer at the United Nations. The agency, which is monitored in Nicosia, did not say when and where Renato's alleged anti-Islamic statement was made. It quoted Abrar as saying that although Muslims regard international Zionism and the United States as the eternal enemies of Islam, yet a spirit of peaceful coexistence with Jewish and Christian minorities and reciprocal respect exists in Islamic lands. Abrar said that Jews and Christians live in complete freedom in Islamic countries. It added that in Islamic Iran there were hundreds of synagogues and churches with their services relayed by Iran's state television. "In contrast Muslims have not been allowed to build a mosque in Rome for centuries," it said.

Syrian MiG-23 offers intelligence gains

TEL AVIV (AP) — The former head of Israel's air force intelligence said Saturday the Syrian MiG-23 fighter jet flown to Israel this week provides the West with "a first hand touch" on advanced Soviet-designed avionics. "It is a dream come true for every chief of intelligence to have (hold of) an enemy aircraft which ... can now be evaluated and test flown," said Reserve Brig. Gen. Gideon Erez. Erez is a former Israeli fighter pilot and served as head of the air force intelligence. He also commanded Israel's air defences. He spoke on Israel Radio's English language broadcast. He said the MiG-23, which was landed in Israel by a Syrian Air Force pilot Wednesday, contains advanced avionics, missile and warning systems and radar that Israel and the West have not been able to examine before hand.

Iraq prepares for opening of new Fao

BAGHDAD (AP) — The government has appointed a new governor for the war-devastated city of Fao just days before the population will be allowed to return, the governor of neighbouring Basra said Saturday.

Anwar Saeed Al Hadithi told the Associated Press in a telephone interview that the new governor of Fao, a port city which had a population of about 50,000, is Najib Mohammad Salman, who has already assumed office along with other government officials.

Iraq is planning for grand celebrations Oct. 25 to mark the inauguration of the new city and its reopening to the civilian population, evacuated immediately after the war broke out in September 1980.

President Saddam Hussein has sent special envoys to all Arab leaders inviting them to attend the celebrations, but there is no word yet on who is coming.

Hadithi said all the main rebuilding projects have been completed in the city, virtually destroyed during the eight-year Gulf war with Iran.

The government has rebuilt offices, schools, hospitals and paved the city streets.

The Basra governor said the government has allocated plots of land to each family who used to live in Fao to rebuild a new house in addition to more than 10,000 dinars (\$30,000).

Locals are expected to start building their houses as soon as they return, he said.

Hadithi said all rivers and the irrigation system in the area were cleaned so that farmers can start planting for the coming winter growing season.

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swieifich Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785

Children's programme Tel. 634590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrassa Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

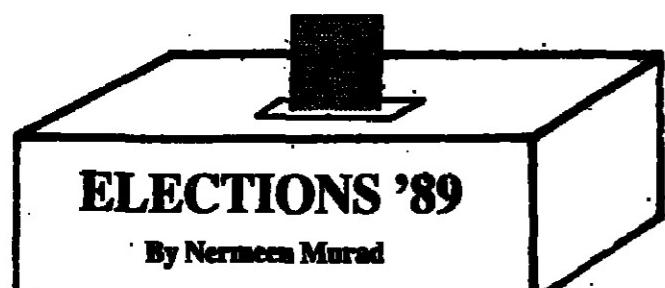
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 675261

Saints Orthodox Church Tel. 771751

Amman International Church Tel. 685326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel.



ELECTIONS '89

By Nermene Murad

IT SEEMS that everyone wants to elect a winner. Very few voters want to create new one. In the Third District, especially, this mentality is creating a dilemma among voters. Candidates in the district have used large amounts of money dedicated to technological superiority which, with a push of button, can give a candidate a formula for success.

In the past few weeks I have endeavoured to interview as many "winners" in the capital district. I conducted 32 interviews and many of those were in the Third District. It struck me that each and everyone of them used a few minutes of the interview to appeal to me as a voter in that district and presented me with a "winning" formula which seemed invincible, leaving me baffled as to how my 12 "winners" will fit in the three seats allocated to the district.

* * *

BANNERS emblazoned with campaign pledges and ideas are drawing mixed reactions from the voters. Some maintain that "these are wonderful ideas but who will implement them?" Others feel that these banners are the ultimate in democracy.

* * *

A CANDIDATE walked into Amman Governorate to hand in his application form to the governor. But he had to seek help from another candidate sitting next to him to check his papers since he did not know how to read or write.

* * *

Sheikh Abdul Mumin Abu Zant, a renowned Islamic fundamentalist, told the Jordan Times that His Majesty King Hussein's speech two weeks ago on parliament and elections "was very clear, since His Majesty discussed fundamentalism which has led to ugly sectarianism in Lebanon and to placing explosives in Mecca during the Haj period." Islamic fundamentalism, Abu Zant said, "is above sectarianism... and those explosions in Mecca contradict the most sacred and sanctity of the faithful." Zant is running in the Second District and has allied himself with another fundamentalist, Dr. Ali Al Hawamdeh.

* * *

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

LAWZI RECEIVES FRENCH ENVOY: Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi Sunday received the French Ambassador to Jordan Denis Bouchard and reviewed with him bilateral cooperation, particularly in the parliamentary field. (Petra)

KEILANI MEETS FARMERS' COMMITTEE: Minister of Water and Irrigation Mohammad Saleh Keilani Sunday said that the ministry is always keen on safeguarding the rights of farmers and that it allocates the residential areas and the agricultural units, in accordance with the rules in force at the Jordan Valley Authority. At a meeting with the Farmers Selection Committee in the Jordan Valley, Keilani called on the committee to allocate the land as soon as possible and to submit a comprehensive report to the authority's board of directors. (Petra)

SAKET, SYRIAN MINISTER HOLD TALKS: Agriculture Minister Bassam Al Saket, who is acting Planning Minister, discussed with the Syrian Planning Minister Qasem Mqdad means of bolstering bilateral cooperation in the field of regional planning. The Syrian minister arrived Sunday at the head of a delegation on a week-long visit to Jordan, in response to an invitation extended to him by his Jordanian counterpart Ziad Fariz. The Syrian delegation will visit the Jordan Valley Authority projects, Hammad Basin, Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation and other industrial and agricultural projects in the Mafrqa Governorate. (Petra)

KHAMMASH TO HEAD TEAM FOR BAGHDAD TALKS: Transport and Telecommunication Minister Hikmat Khammash will head the Jordanian delegation to the Council of Arab Transport Ministers and its executive bureaux meetings, which will be held in Baghdad on Oct. 18. The delegation will also take part in the Arab Maritime Bridge Company (AMBC) meetings, which will be held there on Oct. 23.

CUSTOMERS COME FIRST: Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental has signed an agreement with Reuters for the hotel and business centre package service, thus offering a wide range of real time information to satisfy the needs of the hotel guests in keeping with its policy "customers come first." Now, the hotel guests can have direct access to the world's leading news and financial information. (J.T.)

125 FOREIGN FIRMS BLACKLISTED: The Ministry of Finance has blacklisted 125 foreign companies for violating laws related to Arab boycott of Israel. The ministry also lifted 56 companies from the blacklist for complying with the boycott regulations. (Petra)

AMMAN TO ATTEND ISLAMIC CONFERENCE: Greater Amman Municipality will participate in the 13th session of the Organisation of Islamic Capitals and Cities (OICC) board of directors and the 6th session of the Organisation of Islamic Capitals and Cities Fund (OICCF) board of directors scheduled to convene in Islamabad on Nov. 15. The two-day discussions will deal with means to develop cooperation among Arab capitals and matters related to OICCF. Greater Amman Mayor Ali Subheimat and municipality official Raif Nijim will represent the Greater Amman Municipality to the sessions. (Petra)

SSC TO MARK 11TH ANNIVERSARY: The Social Security Corporation (SSC) Monday celebrates its 11th anniversary. On the occasion a number of new offices and branches will be opened in various parts of the country. The SSC Director General Mahdi Al Farhan will hold a press conference on that day during which he will review the corporation's achievements and its future plans. (Petra)

WORKSHOP ON EDUCATION: The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (UNESCO) regional office for education in the Arab states holds a regional workshop on preparation of model lessons in demographic education on Oct. 22. The workshop aims at exchanging national experience in the field of preparing model lessons and demographic educational material and integrating them in the school curricula for the preparatory and secondary cycles of education. The symposium also aims to identify the best method for teaching demographic studies and preparing model lessons. The workshop will be attended by educationalists from ten Arab countries, in addition to representatives from the Arab Gulf Education Office.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Fuad Mimi and 'Ammar Khammash at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation's Scientific and Cultural Centre.
- ★ An Islamic book exhibition displaying a collection of books dealing with economic and literary matters related to Islam in addition to children's books, at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ A photographic exhibition depicting life as well as historical and archaeological places in Oman at the Yarmouk University.

FILM

- ★ A French film entitled "Around Midnight", shown as part of the French Film Week at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

RJ hopes to play leading role in region's future development

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ) the national airline, hopes to play a leading role in the future development of the region within the framework of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which groups Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen in addition to Jordan, according to RJ chairman of the board of directors Khalid Abu Hassan.

Royal Jordanian will make its presence felt and will play a pivotal role in the region's future development through the ACC which sets the example and the pace along the path of Arab economic complementarity and integration, and could provide the nucleus for the creation of an Arab common market, Abu Hassan said in a major address at the opening of RJ's 26th annual marketing and sales conference at Amman Plaza Sunday.

"Thanks to the vision and pioneering spirit of His Majesty King Hussein, who has been instrumental in bringing about the formation of the ACC, the Kingdom is poised for economic take off," Abu Hassan noted.

He said that the ACC was expected to rid itself of barriers to capital and labour mobility, as well as remove constraints to the free flow of goods and services among the member countries.

Directors of sales offices at RJ's stations around the world are taking part in the conference which this year is being held under the slogan: "The way ahead: Challenge and prospects."

In their two-day meeting, the participants will discuss strategies and performance of sales offices, and will hear statements by senior RJ officials and executives.

With reference to RJ's development and successes over the years, Abu Hassan said: "Royal Jordanian has become an example worthy of emulation. Thanks to His Majesty King Hussein's drive and vision and the undaunted spirit of the early pioneers, RJ has become a monument in the everyday life of Jordan."

"In whichever way we look, RJ has left its mark. Its contributions to the national economy — creating jobs, earning foreign ex-



Khalid Abu Hassan

change, facilitating trade and commerce and portraying positive image of Jordan and Jordanians abroad — remain unassailable and will always withstand the test of time."

Referring to recent developments and prospects for the future, Abu Hassan said there are lots of good things going for RJ and the country. "For the moment it is sufficient to say that recent management changes reflect policy re-orientation rather than a change of direction. There is indeed a shift of emphasis. Profitability has become a primary objective, though not the sole index of success, which enmeshes well in the new economic thinking that pervades the country today," the chairman noted.

Abu Hassan dwelt on RJ's current situation, describing the institution as a precious legacy and an aviation infrastructure well in place.

He said: "RJ is already a world class carrier in the true sense of the word. The fleet, the staff and the bilateral air rights that we enjoy across the globe are great things to write home about. Queen Alia International Airport, which is now six years old, is the quintessential of aesthetics and functionality, and will carry us comfortably for our needs beyond the year 2000. The Queen Alia Airport hotel, the hotel industry in Amman and the spas

that we enjoy in Aqaba and Ma'an, let alone those planned for the Dead Sea, demonstrate beyond question the vitality and viability of various facets of development in civil air transport and related industries.

"Parallel developments have taken place in other fields such as telecommunications, housing, education and surface transport, which make Jordan noted for its stability and tranquility, a desirable and efficient place for expatriate firms to conduct their regional business," Abu Hassan said.

He noted that the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar "seves as a boom to tourism in Jordan."

He also referred to the economic situation by noting that "though our region has been beset by economic woes of some sort, it must be remembered that international air travel has been booming during the past eight years. We could and should become beneficiaries of this abundance because we too play the routes of abundance, but have not been receiving our rightful share. We need to double our efforts, upgrade our capabilities and conscientiously face up to our responsibilities," Abu Hassan said.

"It is central to our image and performance that all departments in RJ strive towards achieving standards of excellence notwithstanding the varying degrees of success that are obtained in the process. For it is the overall view of our operations in their totality that matters most, where harmony and balance are the most important and compelling features," Abu Hassan added.

The RJ chief reminded his audience that the winds of change were sweeping the airline industry rapidly.

From deregulation to European liberalisation to airline globalisation, change is the keyboard, he said. Adding: While we embrace change as a concept, it could be unsettling to us. But true to the traditions of our founding fathers, we welcome change not for its own sake but because it is a function of our dynamism."

Addressing the ceremony upon laying the corner stone Prince Hassan underlined the importance of the projected centre pointing out that the projected centre will provide a good service to pilgrims going to Mecca for their rites.

Prince underlined the duty of giving alms to the poor through the Zakat Fund which is being operated by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

Awqaf Minister Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat addressed the ceremony

pointing out that the projected centre will provide a good service to pilgrims going to Mecca for their rites.

Prince Hassan stressed the need for the use of all available means in both countries to serve the Islamic faith in the best interest of Islam and the Muslim people in both nations.

The Regent voiced deep satisfaction with the excellent relations between Jordan and Iraq under the directives of His Majesty King Hussein and President Saddam Hussein.

Sharif, for his part, voiced his country's appreciation to Jordan for its continued support and for the close cooperation being maintained at all levels.

The ministries of Awqaf in Jordan and Iraq, he said, were going ahead with plans to implement a bilateral agreement signed recently on means of promoting religious services and enhancing the Islamic faith in the two countries.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat and the ministry's Secretary General Ahmad Hilayel.

Public servants cautioned against campaigning

Candidacy registration slows down

AMMAN (J.T.) — The number of candidates who registered for the Nov. 8 elections in Amman governorate rose to 228 Sunday, with only one day left for those who want to register their names as candidates.

According to official sources at the Amman governor's office, 16 candidates registered their names Sunday, while the 212 did so Saturday.

On the other end, out of 348,967 voter cards for the governorate, only 103,500 cards were collected as of Sunday.

"People tend to procrastinate. But it is alright, since they still have time because the last day to collect the cards is Oct. 31," said Aymen Khouri, an official at the

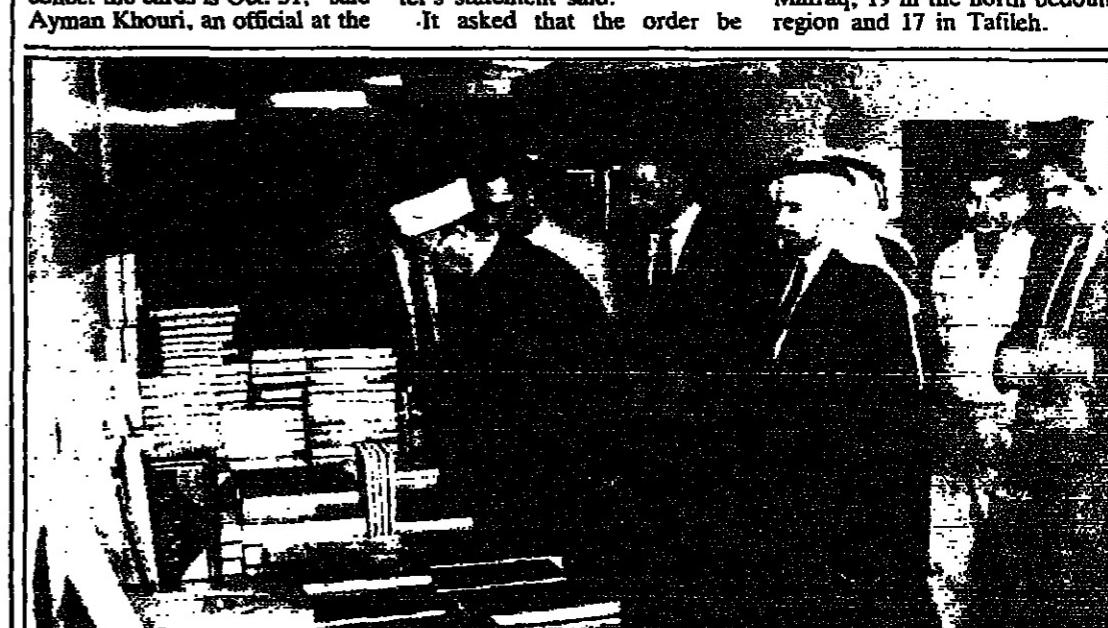
governorate.

In another development, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Sunday issued a statement forbidding all civil servants and employees of public institutions and local authorities from taking part in the election campaigns in favour of any of the candidates.

Sharif Zeid referred to Article 64 of the Election Law of 1986 and its amendments.

None of the personnel falling under these categories "is allowed to do any campaigning for the elections, nor interfere in the course of events during the elections in favour of any candidate by any means," the prime minister's statement said.

It asked that the order be



Khayyat opens Islamic book exhibition

AMMAN — Ministers of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat Sunday opened an Islamic book exhibition at the King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein Mosque in Amman as part of the Kingdom's celebrations of the Prophet Mohammad's Birthday anniversary. The two-week ex-

hibition displays large collections of Islamic books which can be sold to the public at reduced prices. Several local publishing houses are taking part in the exhibition. Women are allowed into the mosque to inspect the displayed books only on Wednesday and Thursday. (Petra photo)

Mauritanian delegation end visit

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-member Mauritanian delegation led by the director of the Mauritanian Water and Electricity Corporation, Sunday concluded a week-long visit to Jordan, during which they held talks with Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Director General Mohammad Arafah on scopes of cooperation between Jordan and Mauritania.

Arafah discussed with the delegation the reports prepared by the JEA on the tender documents and technical specifications, sub-

mitted by international companies to connect 13 Mauritanian cities and villages with electric power.

Feasibility study for the project, which will be funded by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, has been undertaken by the JEA, in cooperation with a Swiss consulting company.

JEA will also second one of its electric distribution network experts to the Mauritanian corporation for two years to supervise one of the electrification projects, to be carried out by the corporation.

The Mauritanian delegation has agreed to the offer made by the JEA to carry out a comprehensive study aimed at improving

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JOHN IN LIMA

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1971.

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Before it is too late

THE MIDDLE EAST peace process is once again bogged down and stalled by Shamir's refusal to budge even an iota in favour of moving the search for peace forward. After so many political acrobatics and filibustering on the part of the Likudniks in Israel, the initial optimism generated by President Hosni Mubarak's initiative to get the Israelis and Palestinians on talking terms is once again on hold. For now, all the parties are holding their breath for the umpteenth time till Shamir makes his trip to Washington next month, hoping against hope that Washington will drive some sense into his head. So the waiting game is once again reactivated without any visible sign that Shamir's pilgrimage to the U.S. would in fact result in anything resembling a breakthrough.

But according to optimists, if Shamir returns from his American trip as expected empty-handed, the Labour faction of the Israeli cabinet would opt to quit the national coalition government with a view to precipitating early elections. Then, and only then, according to this scenario, would the peace process have a real chance to be propelled in the right direction.

There are many ifs attached to this hopeful analysis. The first one centres on the credibility of the Labourites to come through with their threat to resign from the current government. It must be recalled that Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin made many hollow threats to leave the government over issues that they termed as tantamount to stumbling blocks erected by Shamir and his colleagues in the path of the peace process. This time the Labourites are making the same kind of noise about Shamir's calculated moves to sabotage what Cairo had painstakingly put together.

The second "if" relates to the result of voting — should in fact there be general elections in Israel. If the Labour Party in Israel could emerge victorious from these projected elections, in the sense that it can form a government without the crippling effects of having the Likud on their backs, then all is well. But if the opposite occurs with the Likud still imposing its will on any future government then the peace process will once again return to square one. Meanwhile, the casualty list among the struggling Palestinians gets longer and longer without an end in sight. If this continues, there would be no escape for the Arab World from intervening in some form or another on the side of the Palestinian intifada. The implications of such a drastic step are clearly ominous and have to be entertained as more probable than not. As far-fetched as that may appear now, the events in the Middle East could very well veer into that direction. It would be prudent, therefore, for all sides to reckon with that eventuality as of now before it gets too late for the parties to defuse the situation.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

JORDANIAN Arabic dailies on Sunday gave wide coverage in their editorials and inside columns to the election campaign which runs up to election day Nov. 8.

Al Ra'i daily said the campaign has now started and it is being held in an atmosphere of responsibility and freedom, something which fills the hearts of all Jordanians with pride. Dialogues and display of respect to the other party's views will no doubt dominate the whole campaign which is witnessing a heavy competition by all the hopeful candidates, said the paper. Should all the candidates abide by the rules of democracy and responsibility there will be no doubt that the parliamentary life in Jordan will be enhanced and Jordanian citizens will be encouraged to go to the polls self-satisfied with the situation and well assured about democratic rule in their country, the paper noted. It is natural, said the paper, to expect further activity in the coming weeks and it is natural to see people expecting their aspirations to be fulfilled by the advent of the new parliament which will help enhance the spirit of democracy in the Kingdom.

The renewal of fighting between the Polisario Front and the Moroccan armed forces over the Sahara region in North Africa attracts the attention of Mahmoud Al Raisawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday. The writer laments such development which he says adversely affect the ongoing efforts to reach a final settlement for the disputed territory. The outbreak of fighting indicates that the two sides are holding on to hardened positions rather than showing flexibility which could pave the way for a lasting solution, the writer notes. The fighting took place against a totally different backdrop, represented in the rapprochement between Algeria which had been supporting the guerrillas and Morocco which claims total sovereignty over the Sahara, the writer notes. It is surprising to hear about a renewal of clashes between the two sides while efforts are being made to bolster the concept of the Maghreb Union and as African and European and Arab countries were involved in behind-the-scenes activity to end the dispute peacefully, the writer pointed out. He points to differences among the various Polisario factions that could have been behind the decision by its leaders to resume the fighting against the Moroccan forces.

Al Dustour said that with the start of the election campaign Jordan enters a new phase of democratic practice in the long democratic process and in the spirit of the constitution. The paper said that the campaign ends a long break of democratic and parliamentary life in the Kingdom and, therefore, Jordanians are optimistic that their new endeavours will be crowned with success. The coming stage is undoubtedly a new one for the Jordanian people and their candidates for the coming parliament in view of the political, social and economic developments that occurred in the Kingdom since the last parliament was elected in 1967 and, therefore, one would naturally expect a period of reassessment and careful planning on the part of the coming Lower House before further steps in development can be taken, the paper added. The coming parliament as King Hussein said will not serve as a forum for mere political statements but real planning and real and serious work to resolve the country's numerous problems and help maintain the momentum of construction, said the paper.

Weekly Political Pulse

Palestinians need a concerted Arab push

IT MUST be clear by now to all concerned parties that the so-called peace process in the Middle East is going around in circles. Perhaps the circles are getting smaller, but they are still circles nevertheless. No sooner the parties get close to a breakthrough than the process fumbles on a new pessimistic note. And then the cycle of diplomacy gets kicked off once again only to end up as usual without fruition. This time around, therefore, will not be any different, and sooner than later the Arab side will discover that its faith and trust in the elusive peace efforts were misplaced. Yet, fresh attempts are made all the time to reactivate the search for peace on the heel of every failure with hope against hope that a breakthrough could be pulled out of the blue.

The only thing going now in support of the quest for a permanent settlement of the Palestinian conflict is the intifada. Still, it would be utterly irresponsible to pin all hopes on the uprising to pull off a reasonable deal with Israel. The Palestinian insurgency alone cannot achieve what the entire Arab World has failed to achieve. As is, it is, by and large, an orphaned Palestinian effort lacking solid support and missing complementary Arab action. Whoever thought that the entire Arab World would continue to be watchful of the intifada, albeit with admiration and hand clapping, well into its 23 month! Maybe this Arab aloofness has a background based on the Arab supposition that the Palestinian side has chosen to go it alone and therefore should be left alone to accomplish the mission impossible. In other words, the Palestinianism of the Middle East conflict and the centrality of the Palestinian people in the conflict have led the Arab World to leave the Palestinian party basically alone in their struggle with the Arabs' number one enemy Israel. Maybe some

would suggest that the Palestinians have brought this state of affairs upon themselves by playing the Palestinian card more prominently than has been the case before. But, even if one accepts to entertain this postulation, emergence of the Palestinian element to the forefront of the struggle in the context of the Palestinian conflict should not have lead to the present situation where most of the Arab countries are left as spectators. There must be a fresh effort therefore to reactivate the Arab countries' involvement in the Palestinian case with a view to bolstering and fortifying the Palestinian efforts to assist in finding a permanent settlement to their dimension of the broader Arab-Israeli conflict.

There are many ways available to the Arab countries to enhance their involvement in the Palestine situation, but staying on the periphery is not one of them. To begin with, the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip cannot be expected to hold out on their own indefinitely and many action-oriented measures need to be adopted to help them. And one does not think only in terms of financial and economic aid but rather in political and politically related areas with a view to raising the Israeli cost in fighting the Palestinians under occupation. As things stand now, Israel is killing off an average of two to four Palestinians a day and wounding scores of others without feeling any heat from the Arab World or the international community. It must be accepted that Israeli leaders have succeeded in stifling international and regional concern for the Palestinians who are being eliminated on a daily and routine basis without causing as much as a blink among them. International mass media have also relegated the news about the intifada to the backburner and we all know that that was the advice offered by

Henry Kissinger to Israel and the Zionist forces in the West. Of all people Kissinger knows only too well and remembers very well that what brought an end to the Vietnam war was bringing it to the American home by television and other mass media methods. If the Arab World can succeed to bring back the intifada to Western television screens as was the case before Kissinger intervened to halt that practice on behalf of Israel, the beginning of the end of the Palestinian conflict would materialise. In other words, a more concerted effort must be exerted by the Arab countries to disseminate audio-visual information on the Palestinian conflict worldwide and to invest the necessary capital for that purpose. There is always the hope that even the Israeli public opinion would begin to shift in favour of reasonable accommodation with the Palestinian people under occupation exactly the way the American people saw the Vietnam war on their screen.

Come to think of it, even Arab mass media have also become derelict in their duty to highlight the Palestinian struggle and often give the impression of indifference to the lot of their brethren under Israeli occupation. Arab press and television appear to have lost their original stamina to expose the Israeli oppression in the occupied territories and this unfortunate state of affairs calls for reclamation as a matter of urgency.

The list of other actions that the Arab countries can undertake is indeed long and perhaps a special conference could be convened for that purpose. Whatever it is there is a lot more that the Arab countries can do to rescue the struggling Palestinians from oppression.

Israeli politics

The following article is reprinted from the Israeli newspaper, *The Jerusalem Post*

By Dan Petreanu

ONCE AGAIN the Labour Party is threatening to leave the government. Now that the Likud has rejected the Egyptian proposals to advance the peace process, the moment of truth has finally arrived, say party leaders again. To remain a part of this government if it turns out the Likud has torpedoed yet another peace initiative — this time, its own — would be really, truly, terminally unacceptable.

It may not be a bluff.

Of course, Labour leaders know that they have lost credibility in this matter. The party has used the threat to bolt the government too often. And Prime Minister Shamir treats Labour's warnings with commensurate contempt. In response to Labour's latest grumblings, he has even indicated that new elections would be just fine if Labour insisted. But the last thing Shamir wants is destabilisation of all his mind after President Herzog's "appeal" for unity (and after the separate appeals of kibbutzim and the Histadrut).

In July, after Shamir surrendered to his party's hard-liners and imposed "constraints" on the Likud's point of view, and as potentially viable (from the point of view of the U.S. and Labour) as the excruciatingly slow, two-stage process he outlined in his "diplomatic initiative."

Just the deliberations on the means (elections in the territories) of advancing towards the first stage (autonomy) are likely to take a year, say his aides. If a non-PLO delegation with whom he can deliberate ever materialises, that is.

Politically, only the unity government enables Shamir to cast aside his ambitious colleagues in the Likud (Sharon, Levy and Modai) while advancing, in the framework of Likud's reduced cabinet representation, the cause of those he views as potential successors — be it Arens of the Histadrut.

Besides, Shamir reasons, at this point Labour will not risk elections, from which it will almost certainly emerge in worse shape. And Peres, although doubtless anxious to relieve himself of the thankless burden of the Treasury, will prefer not to fester in the opposition, almost certain-

ly a political death sentence for him.

All this is true. Which is why Labour will only bolt if it knows that it can form a narrow government — either immediately or in the wake of a Likud-led transition government. Increasingly, there are indications that this is exactly what the party has in mind.

Peres, especially. For he knows that a narrow government is his best chance of returning to the premiership. A lengthy spell in opposition, or early elections, would almost certainly lead for a move to replace him with either Rabin (likely in the short term) or one of several younger challengers (likely if the process drags out until 1992, as planned).

There is widespread agreement in the party that although Peres is the best man it has for the job of premier, he has proven himself unelectable. While there is no guarantee that he would be defeated in the central committee — a possible majority of its members may still be personally loyal to him — he would certainly prefer to avoid facing the question of whether to choose the party interest over his own.

To be sure, the coalition agreement stipulates that elections are the only available course in case of a government collapse. If one of the partners bolts, both parties must join in an early elections bill. This clause was inserted at Shamir's insistence, to discourage Peres from engaging in coalition negotiations before their time.

Some Labour ministers note privately that the agreement does not require faction discipline to be imposed, meaning that there is no guarantee that all the members of both parties would support it. If the early-elections motion fails, then technically all options are open: the unity government would become a transitional one, and coalition negotiations would begin anew.

Peres' associates have been working overtime in order to come up with a plausible defence for violating the clause and avoiding this unpredictable scenario

altogether. Several arguments are being toyed with already.

First, it is maintained, the election process would lead to a several-month freeze in the diplomatic process, in which invaluable momentum would be lost.

Second, new elections under the existing electoral system are unlikely to meaningfully alter the balance of power in the Knesset, meaning that the inevitable haggling with the religious parties would only be delayed, not avoided. Third, there is no precedent in Israel for holding general elections less than one year apart.

Fourth, says one Labour minister, "we could produce a very long list of cases in which the Likud has violated the coalition agreement."

Most of Labour's backbenchers — including some who publicly advocate coalition blackmail on the peace issue — have privately indicated to party leaders that they would support a move that would enable them to maintain their Knesset posts. Many of the newer parliamentarians feel that one year has not afforded them enough time to make the kind of impact that would guarantee them a return ticket to the Knes-

set. One Labour minister has therefore suggested that if early elections are called, Labour should dispense with internal elections and present the same list of candidates that it did in 1988.

Labour can count on the support of 10 dovish MKs in addition to its own 39, as well as the tacit support of seven non-Zionist MKs. This means that Peres needs the support of at least one of the religious parties apart from Degel Hatora.

At last week's Labour ministers meeting, Peres indicated that Shamir and Degel Hatora were "in the bag." To the ministers who were still smarting from the humiliations administered to Labour by these very parties only last year (Motza Gur, Ya'acov Tsur, and perhaps the absent Yitzhak Rabin, whose support would be crucial), the party leader noted that situation is different now, when Labour can play its hand only when it knows it has a good one.

Proponents of a narrow government with the ultra-Orthodox argue that these parties have already signalled that they want

to avoid new elections — in which they may well fall short of their impressive 1988 tally of 13 minor seats (Shas 6, Agudat Yisrael 5, Degel Hatora 2). In particular, Peres is looking hopefully towards Shas, whose Arye Deri has struck up a fine rapport with him and is known to harbour dovish views (as does his mentor, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef).

For the narrow-government scenario to take place, Peres must be able to prove to the religious parties (and to Rabin) that the diplomatic initiative has been killed by the Likud. Its burial, as far as Peres is concerned, will take place only when Shamir returns from his planned trip to the U.S. in mid-November. Not by coincidence, this falls just after the Nov. 13 elections in the Histadrut, where Labour fears it would be harmed by a diplomatic crisis.

If the U.S. permits Shamir to return home without signs of progress, there is a fair chance that Labour will actually make good on its threat, Peres' political career depends on it. And, in anything that doesn't involve winning votes from ordinary people, Peres is nothing if not a master politician.

Time for honest thinking

By Anthony Lewis

BOSTON — This is the time of year, the High Holy Days, when Jews are supposed to look into themselves, reflect on what has been and commit themselves to what should be. In 1989 it should be a time for honest thinking about the future of Israel.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his Likud colleagues have just said no to a gentle suggestion by President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt on how to get a peace process going.

Their no told us as clearly as anything has where Israel is heading under its present leadership. Ten or 20 years from now, if it stays on that path, it will be this kind of country:

• It will be a Jewish state in which Arabs are nearly half the population and will soon be more than half. Jews will maintain political control because Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza have no political rights.

• It will be a garrison state. The only way to retain control over the occupied territories will be by increasing military force and increasing abandonment of the rule of civilised law.

• It will be a brutal state. Imprisoning Palestinians by the thousands without trial, deporting them without evidence, shooting children — all this and

more will have become part of normal life.

• It will be an isolated state. The link with Arab neighbours, the treaty with Egypt, will have frayed or broken by then. Some of the isolation will be self-imposed: Israelis who even talk with Palestinian leaders will be jailed.

"Some doubted (Shamir's) sincerity when he came up with the idea of May 14. I did not, but I see no reason now to think he was serious."

• It will be a dependent state. Dependence on U.S. aid for economic existence, which grew during the 1980s, will by now be overwhelming — if American taxpayers are still willing to bear the heavy burden.

That future is a necessary consequence of the choice Mr. Shamir and his government have made. They chose the status quo — indefinitely. Mr. Mubarak leaned way over backward to please Mr. Shamir, but the idea that Israeli and Palestinian delegates meet in Cairo was rejected

because it might conceivably lead to a change in the status quo. It might develop movement toward Palestinian rights.

The talks in Cairo would only have been to flesh out a proposal made by Mr. Shamir himself: for Palestinians in the occupied territories to elect representatives who would negotiate with Israel. Some doubted his sincerity when he came up with the idea on May 14. I did not, but I see no reason now to think he was serious.

After rejecting the Mubarak invitation, Mr. Shamir said there could still be other ideas to follow up. But such talk is a familiar tactic. It is designed to create an illusion of hope that covers the reality of Mr. Shamir's determination to do nothing.

Clarity is the one gain from the decision in Jerusalem. It is clear now where responsibility rests for the lack of progress towards peace. It rests on the government of Israel.

Objectively, the prospects for peace have never been brighter. Palestinians have found a voice at last for negotiation and compromise. The PLO has recognised Israel and, in the many months since that historic decision, refrained from terrorism. But the government of Israel says no.

The clarity of the situation has

consequences in the United States. It requires a response from American Jews and from the American government.

The Jewish community in America is concerned about where Israel is heading. Many American Jews, probably most, are opposed to the Shamir policy of holding on to the West Bank and Gaza forever by force, with all the self-brutalising consequences.

But the voice of the community is muted. The major Jewish organisations do not speak out critically about the Shamir policy. They do not say what many believe: that the rejection of Mr. Mubarak, the refusal to talk with Palestinians are steps that threaten the future of Israel.

The reluctance is understandable. The Jewish organisations have to work with the Israeli government that is. Their constituents worry about anything that looks disloyal.

Pulling no punches

By Haya Hussein

Writers

I HAD a nine-year-old student who wanted to become a writer. He said Miss, miss, miss... I said, get to the point.

I want to be a writer, Miss.

I taunted him, your parents won't let you.

Actually, the boy had a great deal of wit, self-imposed, I think, since the parents were fairly grim. But he wrote quite well and I told him so.

Those children had tremendous talents for creative writing. They would omit all hints of punctuation, their sentences were incoherent; ideas were laid out haphazardly; action was disorderly and confused; characters inconsistent and irrational.

And they were writers; in the sullied classroom of that year, they were writers, poets, philosophers, scientists; they laughed at Marco Polo, revered the stars, laboured over Egyptology, abused their mathematical elements and mistook Ginn sociology to be part-fantasy.

Did I remember James Joyce's chaotic structure, Garcia Marquez and Muriel Spark's metaphysical characters, Penelope Lively's muddled events?

Originality in effluence. That was what I taught that year. And one boy said, Miss, my mother wants to know why we're not doing grammar.

So I got masterpieces like:

Fear

I run so quickly
My face is hiding
The scary bird is behind me
So I stop
And I ask him to show me the way
(a nine-year-old)

and

My Grandfather

My grandfather sits and sits, too
He also wears pyjamas sometimes
Sometimes he gets angry over his soup
Sometimes he gives me money
Sometimes I laugh, and my mother loves him.
(An eight-year-old)

One day I told the children that I would write an essay with them too.

You, Miss?

Yes. I got into a thinking attitude.

The children smiled. You, Miss?

So I ended up not writing with them. And from amidst their jubilant denunciations against me, I heard a girl say, don't be so mean, let her write.

I thank her for her mercy. To these children I am indebted, for one thing I learnt: children do love adults, I know they loved me, but they do not think highly of them, or of their actions or of what they write.

The nine-year-old who wanted to become a writer said to me, a week later,

Miss, miss, miss,

I said, stop missing me.

Miss, I want to be a pilot.

Oh? I thought... That was last week, he said irritably, as though I should have known.

I should have known.

His mother came to see me one day. She said her son's English wasn't improving.

I said his writing style was good.

She said his spelling was awful.

I said his imagination was excellent.

His handwriting is bad, she pointed out.

I told her he wanted to become a pilot.

She went away, appeased, and even thanked me.

Miss, what's another word for happy?

Please?

It seemed to suit her:

As pleased as a potato
As happy as a hippo
They got into their cars
And swam to Aleppo.

Meanwhile, his mother gave him spelling tests at home to prepare for his aviatorial and aeronautical future. She didn't know that a week later her son decided to invest his efforts and intellect into pursuing a life-long career in alien-hunting.

That suits you best, I said and he went back to his desk to write about it.

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els, down to the levels at which humans are likely to be exposed. Because the results are highly theoretical, they have been an easy mark for criticism from both sides of the controversy.

"We need to find a way to do risk determination," said William Thilly of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, "instead of risk guessing."

The new methodology employs a variety of "biological markers" to detect genetic damage, which is thought to be a precursor to cancer and birth defects. One that seems to be especially promising is the human gene called HPRT, which contains the genetic code for an enzyme involved in DNA synthesis.

This test is worked out originally by Richard Albertini of the University of Vermont and Alec Morley of Flinders Medical Centre in Bedford Park, South Australia. A simple chemical test, using the T-cells (a type of lymphocyte, or white blood cell) from human donors, can distinguish HPRT genes that have been inactivated by mutations from those that are still functional. A normal adult has a very low level of T-cells with mutant HPRT genes, but people who are known to have been exposed to genotoxic agents show measurable increases in their mutant frequency.

For example according to studies by researchers at the University of Sussex, in Brighton, England, smokers have about a 50 per cent higher frequency of HPRT mutants than non-smokers.

"This is a remarkable coincidence," says Bryn Bridges, head of the university's Cell Mutation Unit. "The relative risk of leukemia (cancer of the leukocytes, of which the lymphocytes are one type) among smokers is 50 per cent higher, and here we have data showing that the relative risk for mutation of lymphocytes in smokers is 50 per cent higher, too."

In the past, risk assessment has relied heavily on studies in which animals, usually rats and mice, are fed relatively high doses of the chemicals being tested. The results are then extrapolated, using complex mathematical models.

test indicate that exposures previously thought to be low can lead to measurable genetic damage. Karen Messing and co-workers at the University of Quebec in Montreal, studied the mutant frequencies of a group of radiotherapy and nuclear medicine technicians at Quebec's Notre Dame Hospital. They found that, compared to a control group, the technicians had significantly higher levels of mutant T-cells.

What may make these techniques even more promising is their potential to provide clues about the identities of the culprits responsible for gene damage.

Barry Glickman and his colleagues at York University in Toronto have chemically analyzed thousands of mutations of a gene found in a common gut bacterium called *Escherichia coli*. They have found that double-stranded DNA molecules differ by only one molecular subunit can be identified using a technique that causes the strands to pull apart when subjected to a chemical and electrical gradient.

Preliminary work with mammalian cells has given similar results. "If you look at mutations in people," Glickman said, "you should be able to sprout some wisdom about what caused them."

Mr. Thilly's research group at MIT has developed a method which might make it much easier to distinguish between different mutation-causing substances. They have found that double-stranded DNA molecules differ by only one molecular subunit can be identified using a technique that causes the strands to pull apart when subjected to a chemical and electrical gradient.

Depending on the location and type of damage to the DNA, the strands separate at different times, leading to characteristic "mutation spectra." So far, each chemical used has produced a different pattern.

Researchers in this field caution, however, that molecular epidemiology may never be able to determine with certainty that a particular person was exposed to a particular chemical. Mr. Glickman, for example, believes that it may prove most useful in occupational settings, in which a number of workers are exposed to the same things.

"Where we will be able to say something is with people in the nuclear, automotive, or chemical industries, where there is a relatively high concentration of a limited number of substances."

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JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Egypt considers expanding Suez Canal

CAIRO (R) — A proposed billion-dollar scheme to widen and deepen Egypt's Suez Canal could influence designs for the next generation of supertankers, Suez Canal Authority Chairman Ezzat Adel said.

Adel told Reuters in a weekend interview the scheme was subject to a 18-month study by Nedeco of the Netherlands and two local partners, the firms Pacer Consultants and Telconsu.

The \$1.5 million economic feasibility contract, financed by the Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, was signed in September, he added.

The 195 kilometres long canal, one of Egypt's top foreign exchange earners along with workers' remittances from abroad, tourism and oil exports, can now take oil tankers up to 140,000 deadweight tons (DWT) with a draught of 53 feet (18 metres).

The study was looking at ways of expanding the waterway to accept larger vessels, possibly up to 250,000 DWT with a draught of up to 68 feet (23 metres).

In 1967 — shortly before the Arab-Israeli war erupted in June that year closing the canal for eight years — two thirds of all cargo transiting the waterway was oil. Now it's down to just over a third.

But Adel pointed out that several factors could influence Egypt to scale down the target for expansion, including shipbuilding costs, the price of bunker oil and freight charges.

"We have to reach a solution attractive to both Suez and shipowners, but we need a crystal ball

to see how markets are going to move in the years to come," he said.

"The life cycle of the current generation of supertankers was coming to an end, and by offering sufficient incentives to use Suez, shipbuilders could be encouraged to construct vessels of a size that would take advantage of whatever expansion was eventually implemented. It was all a matter of weighing costs."

Iraq's newly-built pipeline will be delivering 1.65 million barrels a day to Saudi Arabia's west coast by December enhancing the importance of the Red Sea gateway to the Suez Canal as an export outlet.

For Adel, expansion of the canal would cap more than 30 years' work with the Canal Authority.

"The salt water of Suez has got into our veins," he said of the

veteran staffers who can recall the 1956 nationalisation of the canal by Egypt's late president Gamal Abdul Nasser.

Adel said the authorities had run a 24-month incentive project to attract long haul tankers by reducing canal tolls by as much as 35 per cent.

"In the last two years about 600 tankers have used the canal that might otherwise not have done so," he said, adding that the strategic aim was to attract very large crude carriers.

Many large tankers already transit the canal in ballast but continued to use the Cape route when fully loaded.

Adel said revenue, in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1989 was about \$1.34 billion, up some \$40-\$50 million from the previous financial year.

He pledged no sudden or sharp

increase in tolls, saying fees would be kept parallel to the inflation rate in industrial countries which the authority depended upon for imports of cranes, spare parts and telecommunications equipment.

Once plans were finalised, loans providing a grace period for repayments and low interest rates would be sought from foreign governments to finance the expansion, Adel said.

Just under one million Suez Canal net tons — a special unit of measurement used to assess toll charges — moved through Suez each day, down from 1.1 million in 1983 when traffic was at its peak.

Today an average of 62 ships transit the canal daily compared to 83 in 1983 — demonstrating, Adel said, that vessels had increased in tonnage overall.

Central banks stand ready

LONDON (R) — Senior central bank officials from the Group of Seven (G-7 industrial countries) held a series of informal telephone contacts Saturday to coordinate their response to the slump in U.S. stock prices.

Analysts in Britain forecast a 50 to 100-point fall in London's FTSE index of 100 leading shares from its Friday close of 2,233.9, expecting a gloomy, if not black, Monday.

A spokesman for the Bank of England sought to allay fears of a repeat of the New York plunge, saying it saw "no reason for such an exaggerated fall in London share values."

Paul Chertkow, chief international economist at London brokers Drexel Burnham Lambert, said: "We shouldn't get carried away by the impact of one leveraged bid. People are going to take the view the U.S. market was ripe for correction."

He predicted the London market would deteriorate "but this is not going to be a repeat of the October crash. The market is much better valued this time."

In the United States, Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady said the U.S. economy was well balanced and on a path to future modest growth. He pointed out that the market had risen 591 points this year.

It is unclear whether central banks will make a similar commitment Monday. That decision is likely to depend on the extent of the fall in share prices in the Far East and Europe.

Several European central banks believe Friday's near seven

per cent slump in U.S. prices was caused by concern over leveraged buyouts and the junk bond market, both financial instruments heavily used in the United States and less elsewhere.

One central bank official, who asked not to be identified, said statements by the U.S. Federal Reserve and other central banks in October 1987 that they would make liquidity available played an important role in containing the crash.

But he added one of the lessons drawn from that coordinated operation was that the G-7 may have allowed interest rates to fall too quickly in a bid to head off a recession that never came.

Two years ago, the stocks crash had also begun with a sharp

Friday fall in prices on Wall Street, only to turn into a rout in other markets on the following Monday.

But then central banks had

little experience of how to handle

a crisis, drawing mainly on

lessons from the great crash of

1929 and the depression years of the 1930s.

Private-sector economists said

the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed)

which was already easing its grip

on credit, is likely to react to

Friday's stock market slide by

pushing down interest rates.

Wall Street may be less vulner-

able to further selling than at the

time of the October 1987 crash,

but cheaper money is needed to

cushion the slide's deflationary

impact on an economy already

showing distinct signs of weak-

ness, they said.

"I think the Fed will ease

aggressively in response — at a

minimum a full percentage point

drop in the Fed funds rate and

possibly a discount rate cut," said

David Jones of Aubrey G. Lans-

ton, a New York bond-trading

firm.

Central bank funds, the rate

banks charge each other for over-

night loans, traded at just below

nine per cent last week.

The discount rate, the fee the Federal

Reserve charges banks for loans,

is currently seven per cent.

Together, the two money mar-

ket rates determine the cost of

credit throughout the U.S. econ-

omy.

Stephen Slifer of Shearson

Lehman Brothers said the Fed's

reaction would depend on how

investors assess the slide.

"The Fed has got to respond to

this by easing to some extent, but

it remains to be seen how much."

he said.

A plunge in stocks can hurt

economy in two ways.

Officials said they received sell-

ing orders worth 90 million

shekels (\$45 million) for shares

and 40 million shekels (\$20 mil-

lion) for bonds.

Rami Tamari, deputy manag-

ing director of the exchange, told

Reuters: "There are only a hand-

ful of shares which are traded

both in New York and in Tel

Aviv, so the reaction is more

psychological than economic."

Jordanian farmers get good prices for products

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers has issued a statement fixing prices of locally-produced cereals which will be purchased by the Ministry of Agriculture in the coming 1989-90 agricultural season.

According to Agriculture Minister Bassam Al Saket, the rate for purchasing the cereals from local farmers is bound to encourage them to double their efforts to increase output since the rates are much higher than those on international markets.

According to the minister, a tonne of wheat will be purchased at JD 142, barley at JD 100, lentils at JD 250, chick peas JD 330 and maize at JD 100 a tonne.

The minister called on farmers to prepare their lands for different crops but to increase their production of wheat and barley which are of great demand on the local market.

The minister advised the farmers to embark on land preparation immediately in expectation of early rain.

Israeli stock market slides

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli share prices plunged by eight per cent in early trading Sunday as the Tel Aviv stock market reacted to Friday's Wall Street slide.

Tel Aviv, one of the few stock exchanges in the world to trade on Sundays, was the first to respond to the 191-point drop in the Dow-Jones industrial average, the second largest one-day fall in its history.

"What is happening here is essentially a reaction to news of what happened in New York Friday," Tel Aviv stock exchange managing director Yossi Nitani told Israel radio.

"There is a psychological effect, and someone who fears a global economic crisis as a result of an American economic crisis makes the indirect connection to Israel's economy," he noted.

In the first hour of trading in Tel Aviv's blue chips, stock prices fell by an average eight per cent, while many other stocks listed a "selling only" quote. Heavy selling orders were submitted to the exchange.

Officials said they received sell-

ing orders worth 90 million

shekels (\$45 million) for shares and 40 million shekels (\$20 mil-

lion) for bonds.

Rami Tamari, deputy managing director of the exchange, told Reuters: "There are only a handful of shares which are traded both in New York and in Tel Aviv, so the reaction is more psychological than economic."

Government pushes French companies to world markets

PARIS (R) — The French government has approved a long-term strategy for foreign acquisitions by nationalised firms to enable them to compete in world markets, official sources have said.

The plan, conceived in the first quarter of this year, will require 40 billion francs (\$6 billion) in new funds for nationalised companies by the end of 1993.

"Our aim is that state companies' balance sheets match their foreign counterparts... our points of reference are West German, British and American companies," an industry ministry official said, declining to be named.

Industry Minister Roger

Fauroux, a former chairman of state computer firm Bull and previously nationalised glassmaker Saint Gobain, invited state firms to lay out their plans for growth abroad before giving his go-ahead this summer, he said.

The firms have already reaped the rewards of the strategy.

Last week, electronics giant Thomson-CSF announced it was considering a joint bid with British Aerospace for troubled Ferranti International Signal PLC.

This followed hard on the heels of a deal by Compagnie Des Machines Bull to pay up to \$635 million for Zenith Electronics

buys have also raised scepticism due to the high prices involved. But Fauroux is concerned that state companies do not saddle themselves with excessive debt, the official said.

After extensive internal restructuring in recent years, most state firms have relatively poor debt-to-equity ratios.

"The American norm on debt-equity is less than 50 per cent. In France, state firms are often over 100 per cent. The only one with a balance sheet comparable to ours is Elf," the official said.

In August, state oil giant Elf-Aquitaine finally won a hard-fought battle for control of American chemicals firm Penwalt Corp., spending \$1.05 billion.

Talks are also underway between carmaker Régie Nationale Des Usines Renault and Swedish counterpart A.B. Volvo which analysts expect to lead to a share swap.

Metals firm Pechiney and chemical concern Orchem have already announced major U.S. and European acquisitions in the last year.

Some industry analysts say that the prices paid may have been too high — notably Pechiney's purchase in late 1988 of Triangle Industries, a company virtually built on "junk bonds." Régime Poulenc's Gaf chemicals and Bull's Zenith Corp. have also raised scepticism due to the high prices involved. But Fauroux is concerned that state companies do not saddle themselves with excessive debt, the official said.

Four other parties ranging from communists to Islamic fundamentalists have since followed.

The PSD calls for a break with Algeria's socialist past and greater freedom for private entrepreneurs while maintaining state

control in strategic sectors.

Adjid said the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), which has monopolised power since independence, had become divorced from the people and "adopted ideological choices that did not correspond to reality."

Under former president Houari Boumediene, Algeria collectivised agriculture, built giant state-owned industries and nationalised foreign trade.

Adjid blamed the FLN for what he called widespread public apathy and the "destruction of our economy."

Although political observers say the PSD derives most of its support from the urban middle class, Adjid said the party would defend the purchasing power of workers.

"So we believe the possibility of it affecting Tokyo stock prices

is minimal," he said.

Although political observers say the PSD derives most of its support from the urban middle class, Adjid said the party would defend the purchasing power of workers.

"So we believe the possibility of it affecting Tokyo stock prices

is minimal," he said.

Sports

Speelman defeats Timman

LONDON (AP) — John Speelman of England scored a crushing 30-move victory with the black pieces over Jan Timman of the Netherlands in the seventh round of their world chess championship semifinal Saturday to tie the score at 3.5-3.5 with one game remaining.

In the other semifinal, former world champion Anatoly Karpov held on to draw his sixth game with fellow Soviet Artur Yusupov in 46 moves to keep the score level at 3-3.

Speelman's dramatic fight back follows poor play in his first six games and came at a time when observers were beginning to write off his chances in the eight-game contest.

"Tim played just like his old self," said an ecstatic Jonathan Tisdall, an international master who is Speelman's chief second. "As soon as he had a chance he played sharply and very aggres-

sively."

Despite playing with the advantage of the white pieces, Karpov, who was world champion from 1975 until 1985, drifted into an unfavourable endgame where experts said Yusupov missed two chances to win his second game in a row and go ahead in the contest.

"I've never seen Karpov play so badly," commented British grandmaster Tony Miles.

The winner of the candidates' cycle will challenge world champion Gari Kasparov for his title in a 24-game duel beginning October 1990. The winning semifinalists will face off in the candidates' final next March.

In either contest ends in a 4-4 tie, a two-game "mini match" will be played, followed if necessary by sudden death tiebreakers played at increasingly high speeds.

A win scores one point and a draw

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIFF
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦7 ♠K93 ♦AQ1762 ♣AK

The bidding has proceeded:

East South West North

1 ♠ Dbl Pass 2 ♠

Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A.—There's no scientific way to probe for any of the key cards you need for game. As little as the queen of hearts or king of diamonds could be enough for game, so you might as well bid it. Four hearts.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦632 ♠10873 ♠K94 ♣AQ9

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass

2 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—As responder, it's your responsibility to guide your side to its best spot. The quality of your support is not as important as the combined length of your side's trump suit. You know partner has at least five spades, but he might have only four clubs. Correct to two spades.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦962 ♠AK762 ♠KJ9 ♣7

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A.—Your side has at least an eight-card spade fit, while you do not know whether partner has any hearts at all. Since your combined assets should be enough for game, and you have an adequate fit, bid four spades.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦854 ♠AK766 ♠K63 ♣A63

Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

A.—If you're an avid point-counter, you will claim that with 8 HCP you have enough only for an invitational raise to two no trump. That does not take into account the playing strength of your diamonds. You rate to provide four or five tricks for partner, so your hand is worth a raise to three no trump.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦QJ93 ♠AQ76 ♠J105 ♣A74

Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

A.—If you and your partner play limit raises, this is an acceptable jump to three hearts. But if that would be forcing in your methods, you have to make a temporizing bid of one spade and then jump raise hearts at your next turn. That secondary jump is no longer forcing.

The last time was in August 1987 in the quarterfinal of the

Lendl wins Australian indoor title

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Ivan Lendl beat Swedish qualifier Lars Wahlgren in straight sets Sunday to win the \$492,500 Australian indoor tennis championship for the third time.

The Czech-born world no. 1 dominated every facet of the final, winning 6-2, 6-2, 6-1 in one hour, 47 minutes against an opponent ranked 222nd in the world.

Wahlgren, 23, who had not made it past the first round of any major tournament this year and who was playing in the first grand prix final of his career, fought hard but lacked the weaponry to extend Lendl.

Lendl, 29, disputed a number of line calls with umpire Bruno Rebeau of France, but never looked like losing his grip.

He recorded the 82nd grand prix tournament win of his career and his ninth this year.

Lendl earned \$75,000 for his victory in the 32-draw event and also clinched \$800,000 for winning the Nabisco grand prix series bonus pool.

Wahlgren collected \$37,500, easily surpassing his total earnings for the rest of the year.

Lendl set the pattern for the match by breaking Wahlgren's serve in the opening game and racing through the first set in 27 minutes.

He had been considering re-

irement earlier this year after a series of disappointing results.



Ivan Lendl

contest. He recorded 16 aces, 18 outright forehand winners and won 82 per cent of points on his first serve.

"It's always good to win and I haven't won a final that easily for some time," Lendl said. "Wahlgren lacks a big weapon. He doesn't hurt players enough."

Wahlgren beat third-seeded West German Carsten Steeb and defending champion Slobodan Zivojinovic on his way to the final and gave himself the motivation to continue as a professional tennis player.

"I've got to relax a bit and think about my future," he said. "I've been in heaven all week."

Lendl went through the tournament without dropping a set. No player took more than six games from him and he is now a 71-6 record for the year.

"He was just too tough, too strong for me," Wahlgren said.

WORLD GYMNASTICS

Artemov earns highest marks

STUTTGART, West Germany (R) — Olympic champion Vladimir Artemov became the first man to earn marks of 9.90 at the Stuttgart world gymnastics championships Sunday as he put the Soviet men well ahead in their defense of the team title.

Artemov, who won gold medals in the all-around, parallel bars and horizontal bar events at the Seoul Olympics, took the individual lead after scoring a total of 58.90 in the compulsory exercises of the team event on the second day of the championships.

With four other Soviet men in the top eight and European champion Igor Korobchinsky still to perform in the final group, the team looked confident of holding onto the title they have won at four of the last five championships.

Artemov, who collected 9.90 for the floor exercise and the horizontal bar, was followed in the interim standings by European all-round silver medalist Valentin Mogilny, who performed Saturday.

Olympic team gold medalist Vladimir Novikov and Vitaly Marinich shared third place with East German Sven Tippelt, winner of one silver and two bronze medals in Seoul.

Tippelt's high marks, which included 9.80 on the floor and pommel horse, and a good showing from world joint vault champion Sylvio Kroll put the East Germans in a good position to fight China for the silver medal.

China have sent a young, mostly inexperienced team to the 25th world championships but newcomers Li Chunya and Li Jing have provided excellent support for the better-known Wang Chongsheng. All three were placed in the top 10 after five of the six groups of gymnasts had completed the compulsories.

After Sunday's final group of compulsory exercises the teams will compete in optional routines Monday and Tuesday.

Marks of individual gymnasts are used as a qualifying standard for the all-round final and the six apparatus finals.

Soviets take lead

On Saturday, new girl Elena Sazonenkova eclipsed her better-known teammate Svetlana Batanova as the Soviet Union took an



Artemov performing in Seoul

early lead in their bid to win back the women's team title at the world gymnastics championships.

Sazonenkova scored nothing less than 9.837 in the compulsory exercises on the opening day of the championships and took first place in the individual standings with 39.399 points.

With Batanova, a team gold medalist at the Seoul Olympics last year, close behind in the points tally, the Soviet women looked confident of winning back the title they ceded to Romania two years ago.

Their male counterparts were celebrating too after opening the defence of their team title in style with Valentin Mogilny turning in the finest performance of the opening day and his two teammates filling the second and third spots in the standings.

The Soviet women's cause in the five-day team event was helped by a dismal start from reigning world all-round champion Aurelia Dobre whose form has suffered since she underwent knee surgery before the Olympics.

The 16-year-old Dobre, who also won gold for the team event and the balance beam in Rotterdam two years ago, earned only 8.925 on the uneven bars after losing her grip and falling a few old Connors said.

In the second set Skoff stayed close up to 4-3, and then McEnroe held again and broke Skoff in the ninth game again behind three of the Austrian's errors.

Connors got back into his match when Chesnokov began spraying shots.

"In the first set, Andrei was getting the ball deep and I didn't get to the net much," the 37-year-old Connors said.

But things changed quickly as Connors, ranked 14th in the world compared to Chesnokov's No. 18, raced to 5-0 leads in the second and third set and coasted to the victory.

"In the second set I was able to get in and penetrate more," Connors said.

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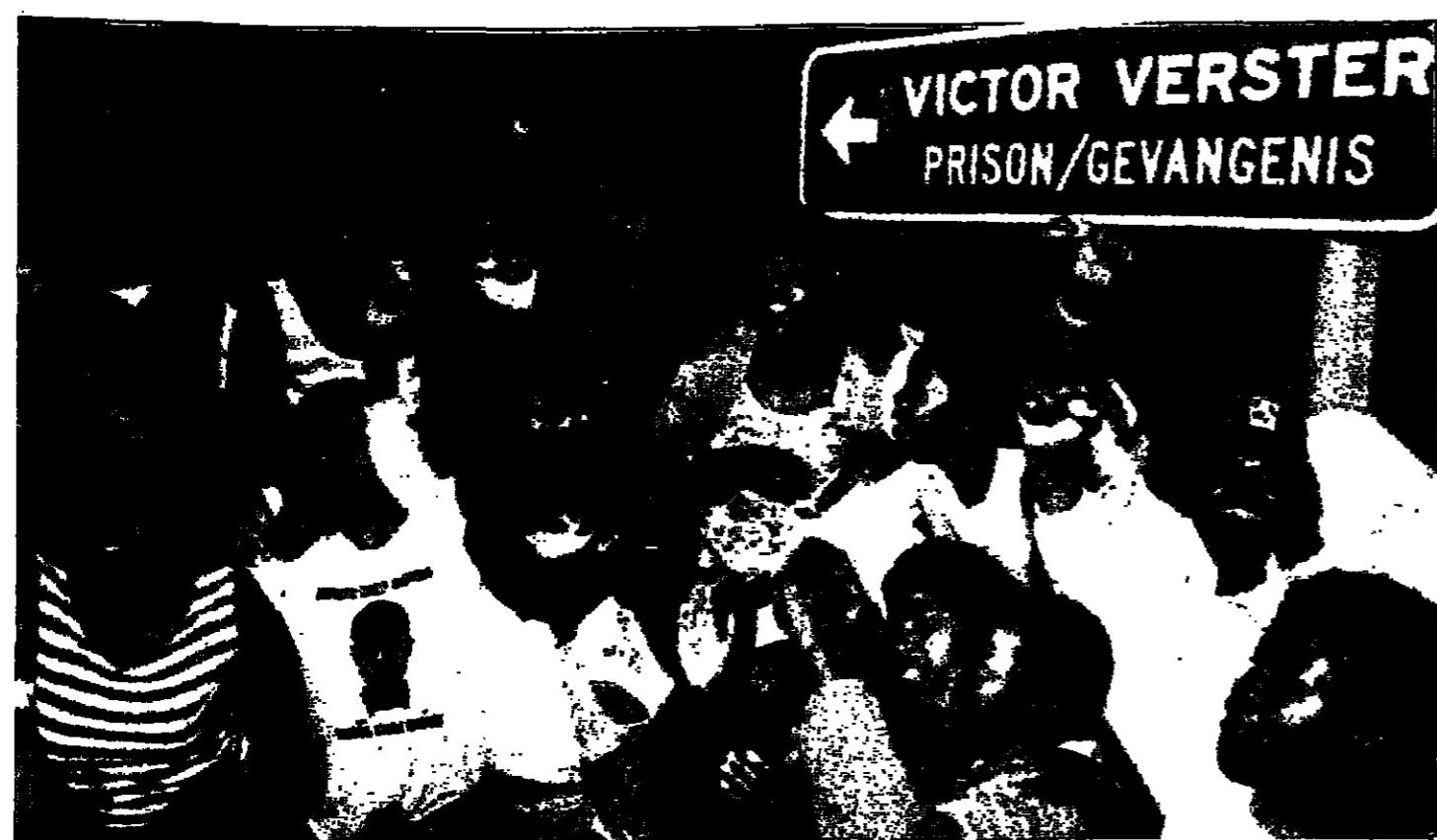
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A crowd of supporters of jailed nationalist Nelson Mandela react with jubilation outside Victor Verster prison in Pietermaritzburg after hearing the news of the release of Mandela's colleagues.

Pretoria frees eight prominent prisoners

SOWETO, South Africa (AP) — Walter Sisulu, senior leader of the African National Congress (ANC) and colleague of Nelson Mandela, was freed at dawn Sunday after 26 years in prison. Seven other anti-apartheid prisoners also were released unconditionally.

Sisulu, white-haired and bespectacled at 77, arrived under police escort at his home in Soweto and embraced his wife, Albertina. Youths who had been waiting for Sisulu lifted the black nationalist atop their shoulders before he went inside.

"I feel very well," Sisulu told reporters. "I am inspired."

President F.W. de Klerk announced the impending release of the eight last week as part of his attempt to improve political conditions for negotiating a new constitution that would include some political rights for blacks.

Mandela, the outlawed ANC's most prominent leader, remains in prison, although his release within the next few months is widely expected.

Freed along with Sisulu early Sunday were six more ANC leaders and Jaftha Masemola, 58, of the Pan Africanist Congress, a smaller guerrilla movement.

Four of the ANC members were arrested in 1963 and sentenced to life prison terms in 1964 for sabotage along with Sisulu and Mandela: Andrew Mlangeni, 63; Elias Motsoaledi, 65; Ahmed Kathrada, 60, and Raymond Mhlaba, 68.

The group also includes ANC leaders Wilton Mkwai, 67, who was sentenced to a life prison term for sabotage in a separate 1964 trial, and 80-year-old ANC activist Oscar Mpetha, who had been hospitalised in Cape Town.

Mpetha, the country's oldest political prisoner, was serving a five-year prison term for terrorism. He was fitted with an artificial limb after a leg was amputated while in prison, and he rose from his wheel chair Sunday by himself into his small home near Cape Town.

Masemola, who was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1963 for sabotage, suffered from depression while in jail and probably would need psychiatric counselling, his wife, Praises, told reporters.

All seven ANC leaders were scheduled to appear at a Sunday evening news conference in Soweto, the huge black township on the outskirts of Johannesburg.

Sisulu, who arrived home in a gray suit and blue tie, emerged after about three hours to speak to reporters and give a clenched-fist salute to a crowd of 300 jubilant well-wishers outside his home, some waving ANC flags.

Asked if he had feared he might die in prison, Sisulu said: "I was quite prepared for death... However, I knew the pressure was building, and that sooner or later they would have to give in. It was not possible to despair."

Sisulu conferred at his home with several anti-apartheid leaders who have been making arrangements for the prisoners' homecoming. These included Cyril Ramaphosa, leader of the National Union of Mine Workers, and Murphy Morobe, a senior official of the banned United Democratic Front coalition.

Several of the freed ANC leaders also are expected to apply for passports to travel to Lusaka, Zambia, for consultations with the guerrilla movement's exiled leadership.

Although the ANC remains outlawed, the release of Sisulu and his colleagues has been widely viewed as a tacit acknowledgement by the government of the movement's influence and popularity among South Africa's black majority.

Even relatively conservative black leaders have said they will reject any negotiations with the government unless the ANC is legalised and its jailed leaders freed.

In recent weeks, the government has permitted ANC flags and posters to be displayed openly at mass protests, something not allowed before de Klerk took power in mid-August.

ANC symbols were particularly in evidence Saturday, when more than 200,000 blacks joined in marches nationwide protesting government policy and celebrating the imminent release of the eight prisoners.

Mandela, 71, conferred with Justice Minister Kobie Coetse and other government officials before the announcement of the prisoner releases.

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